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speech should learn them letter by letter writing them for practice a number of times if need be, rather than make ugly and unseemly errors.

With this single exception, mentioned only in the hope that the fault will be avoided by Sr. Jijón in later works, the book under review is admirable. Both the paper and the type are good, and the material provided for students is of the very first importance.

PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS.

La Primera Centuria. Tomo. 1. By PEDRO DÁVALOS Y LISSÓN. (Lima: Librería é Imprenta Gil, 1919.)

This work is the first volume of a very exhaustive examination of the political, economic, commercial, and social status of contemporary Peru. Its most striking characteristic is an implacable frankness not untinged by a noble melancholy. It is the work of one of Peru's best and wisest citizens. Coming from such a man, this book, which unhesitatingly analyzes the causes of Peru's relative backwardness, possesses peculiar significance and weightiness. Every line in it shows very clearly that Sr. Dávalos is filled with an ardor which consumes him with desire to see his country great, noble, and powerful, as she could and should be. The note of pessimism which, in some pages, rings too loudly and too insistently is the outcome of the utter righteousness of the patriotic aspirations of Sr. Dávalos. He longs to see his magnificent native land as splendidly successful as she ought to be in relation to the other nations of the world. Yet she is not as he would see her. The contrast between stern realities and his radiant imaginings causes the author to become dejected and bitter. It is against just such pessimism that contemporary Peru must fight with all her strength if she is ever to make herself the great nation she might presently become. "The reigning pessimism," as Sr. Dávalos himself calls it, is found in almost all the works of Peru's best thinkers. It is, to my mind, a most dangerous frame of mind.

With the exception of this single fault, the book takes high rank. From the literary point of view, it is first class, for many of its pages could well be used as models of modern Spanish prose. The information and statistics which it contains as to the trade, public instruction, social condition, and many another aspect of present-day Peru are both unexceptionable and various. This is largely due to the fact that Sr. Dávalos personally knows many sections of his own country. He is not one of those who consider a trip from Lima to Chosica a journey

into the "interior" of Peru. The twenty-five long chapters of the book tell many indispensable things about the government, commerce, public health, communications, mining, agriculture, foreign policy, and so on of Peru.

This book shows Sr. Dávalos to be a man of the type which is destined to bring Peru to her own. His is a country which has suffered a number of grave misfortunes in the past, and the effects of them hurt her in the present. But a bountiful Creator has endued her with immeasurable natural riches. Faith in the future greatness of their country on the part of the Peruvians, earnestness in their efforts to make her potentialities actualities, and faithfulness to high political and social ideals, these are the qualities which will make the Peruvians and their country reach their proper station among the nations of the American continent.

PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS.

Studies in Spanish-American Literature. By ISAAC GOLDBERG, Ph.D.
(New York: Brentano's, 1920. Pp. 377. \$2.50 net.)

The appearance of this interesting volume marks a distinct advance in the study and appreciation of Spanish-American literature in the United States. Except for Dr. Alfred Coester's pioneer *Literary History of South America*, published several years ago, no attempt hitherto has been made by North American scholars to treat the literature of the Southern republics in a critical and constructive fashion. Even the academic specialists in Hispanic America have as a rule been unfamiliar with the great literary masters of that region, and this important cultural field has been almost completely neglected. Dr. Goldberg's book reveals a virgin field of study, one which is destined to assume more and more importance in the future, for it shows the possibilities for scholarly literary criticism afforded by the works of Hispanic American men of letters.

The present volume consists of six essays. The first one is devoted to a consideration of the "modernist renovation" in Hispanic America, which the author defines as an "intellectual and artistic reaction, signaling the definite entrance of Spanish America into European literary currents. He believes that while French influence was conspicuous, it by no means prevented the movement in America acquiring individualism and independence. Taking the year 1888 as the real starting point of the modernist movement, Dr. Goldberg provides the necessary background by discussing first the precursors of the modernist school, among whom he includes Manuel Gutiérrez Najera, José